

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Saturday, August 25. 1711.

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**I** Must not pretend to Dreams and Witchcraft, or to Prophecy, as other People do, when they guess right at Things before-hand: But did I not tell you lately, that the *Turks* and *Muscovites* had fought a bloody Battle, and that both Sides were singing their *Te Deums* for the Victory? — The improbable Accounts you had of the Fight and Victory on both Sides, left no Room for hardly any other Rational Conjecture; nor is this a Modern Practice, the World has been long acquainted with this Practice, and the *French* King is not the first that has made it a Custom — We began our unnatural Wars

in the same manner in *England*, and at the first Battle fought between the King and Parliament, we find the Pulpits sounding loud Thanks to Heavens for beating the Rebels on one Side, and the like on the other, for beating the *Cavaliers*, and really both sides were in the right too — Marks of Victory remain'd to either Side, that amus'd them both.

Prince *Rupert* with the King's Right Wing of Horse, broke the Parliaments Left, and entirely Routed them, pushing them quite out of the Field, indeed too far, or it had else been an unquestion'd Victory to the King; for had he left the Chafe and the

the Plunder of the Baggage, and keeping in good order, charg'd in upon the Infantry in the main Battle, who being abandon'd of their Horse, lay expos'd to him, the King's main Battle had cut them all in pieces; but the Parliament's Right Wing pushing the King's Left in their turn, the main Battles of Infantry were left upon equal Terms to contend for the Day, and in this part of the Conflict, the King was oblig'd to Retreat in good order from the Field of Battle, tho' not leaving the other in a Condition to pursue — This the Parliament call'd their Victory — The King on the other Hand, presenting himself on the Hills in the Morning, in order of Battle, ready to renew the Fight, (a Challenge, which the Earl of Essex did not think fit to accept) and then Attacking Banbury, as it were in their Sight, which he took, and made the Garrison Prisoners of War, the Parliament Army looking on, and not venturing to relieve it; these were the King's Tokens of Victory — And both made great Noise of their Advantages, tho' the Loss on both Sides was much about equal.

And thus it seems to me, the *Muscovites* and *Turks* are now doing, so far as the Advices hitherto Collected from one Side and t'other, leave us Room to guess, for we can do no more yet — I Examind before, the Improbabilities of the pretended Victory of the *Muscovites*, and the Inconsistencies of the Letters said to be written from *Fort Trinity*, from the Crown General's Lady, &c. We have now another Letter Publish'd, which they tell us is written from Count *Golaskin*, a General in the *Muscovite* Army, tho', I think, his Name has not yet been known among us.

A Copy of a Letter writ by Count *Golaskin*, to the Prince *Doloreu-ki*, Dated the 26th of July.

**W**E March'd with a great deal of Difficulty towards the *Sonna*, to prevent the *Turks*, and find Forage for our Troops, but they prevented us, and fought us for three

Days near the River, after which, considering that our Horse was in want of Forage, and the Difficulties of making our Retreat, there was a Suspension of Arms agreed upon with the Enemy after the Fight, and his *Czarish Majesty* considering he could get no Advantage by this War, we have concluded a Peace, and restor'd all the Conquests we have made upon the *Ottomans*, which the *Turks* have accepted, and entirely abandon'd the King of Sweden; you may assure the King of Poland, that this Peace will turn very much to the Advantage of the Allies of his *Czarish Majesty*, who having his Hands free on this Side, will be at Liberty to send now a good Body of Troops to *Pomerania*, and as soon as he is arriv'd to the Frontiers of *Walachia*, he designs to set out for *Elbing* in *Prussia*, to be nearer to give his Orders; accordingly, his Majesty has written to the King of Poland, but could not impart to him farther Particulars, for fear that his Letter should fall into the Hands of the *Swedes* or *Tartars*, &c.

Now to Examin this Letter a little, as well as the other Advices, it seems to me in reality, that they all give the Advantage to the *Turks* many Ways, and tho' it is conceal'd as Artfully in the Letter, as possible, yet by all the Customary Rules of Soldiers, Representing their own Disasters, by this Letter, the *Muscovites* must have been either Routed or Reduc'd to the Extremity of accepting such Terms as their Enemies (who are not, as we have formerly been told, very fond of the War) thought fit to impose upon them.

The Accounts Printed in the *Daily Courant* says, The second Courier Arriv'd at *Breslau* in *Silesia*, and sent to King *Augustus* from the *Muscovite* Army Reports —

" That the *Czar* sent a great Detachment  
" towards *Bender*, designing to follow it  
" with his whole Army; but the *Turks*  
" Advancing with their whole Army,  
" which had pass'd the *Danube*, push'd in  
" between them, and cut off the Army  
" from the said Detachment — That the  
" *Muscovites* made several Attempts to  
" force their Passage, but in vain, and  
" found

" found it necessary to Entrench themselves.

Here is first, a great Detachment cut off from the Army by the *Turks*; and why that Detachment being so separated, should not be cut in pieces, as well as cut off, I see no Reason to think; for the *Turks* in such Cases are no Fools, nor are they ever slack at laying hold of an Advantage, especially when they were nimble enough to take it— In the next place, it appears, the *Czar* was not strong enough to attack the *Turkish* Army, as has been boasted; for that he made several Attempts to force a Passage to join his Detachment, but in vain; nay, he was so far from being in a Condition to attack the *Turks*, that he did not think himself strong enough to expect them in the open Field, but giving up his Detachment to fall into their Hands, Entrench'd himself.

Now what if the mutual Victory should be thus? 1. That the *Turks* having cut off this great Detachment from the *Muscovite* Army, fell upon them, Surrounded, and cut them all in pieces; and this Detachment which as we formerly heard, was no less than 30000 Men, being thus Routed, there's the *Turks* entire Victory—— Then finding the *Muscovites* main Army weakened by this Loss, and Entrenching themselves, the *Turks* Attack'd their Entrenchments three Days together, but were repuls'd with great Loss, and there's the *Czar's* Victory.

Then both Sides being well wearied with the Action; they send to one another about a Treaty.

This is all Guess-Work, Gentlemen, but if it should prove right, you will allow a Body to shoot at random another Time, I hope——.

Come we next to the pretended Treaty of Peace between them; the Letter very modestly owns, That the *Czar* made the offer of Peace, and gives very good Reasons for it.

1. That their Horse wanted Forage, and could not subsist,
2. That they could neither get forward or backward, that is, in *English*, were Surrounded by the *Turks*, and not in a Condition to fight them.
3. That they could make no Advantage of the War, which indeed was most true.

For this Reason, they agree to yield up all they have taken from the *Turks*; whether he means now or formerly, it does not say, if the latter *Azoph* must be restor'd, but either are very ill Tokens of their gaining the Victory over the *Turks*—— To confirm this Opinion of mine, that the *Czar* was first in the offer of Peace, the Letter says, The *Turks* accepted it; if the *Turks* had sent to him to make Peace, it must have been said, *The Czar* accepted it.

As to the Condition of Abandoning the King of *Sweden*, or the sending him Home through *Poland* at the Charge of the *Czar*, as it is uncertain, and does no way belong to the Dispute; I shall say nothing to it here, but this—— If a Peace be made, it is the best his *Swedish* can expect, and may think it very well he can come off so.

*Europe* is strangely amus'd with these Uncertainties of Things, and tho' it is true, that these Observations are grounded but upon probable Circumstances; yet I could not but think it necessary to endeavour by Rational Conjectures, to take off the Amusements that these Things are the Cause of, and prepare People's Minds to judge calmly and coolly of the Matter, in the midst of the Confusion of such wild and inconsistent Relation of Fact.

I confess I cannot but think upon the whole, the *Muscovites* have had something the worse in the Action, tho' by Maintaining their Trenches, they have prevented an utter Overthrow, and given the *Turks* a Cheque; and this corresponds exactly, with the Account of General *Nehm*, from *Peter Waradin*. 1. That the *Turks* were rejoicing for a Victory, and then that they  
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put a sudden Change upon their Measures, and appear'd Chagrin.

Nor is it strange that such a Mutual Advantage should procure a Peace in two Powers, who seem'd before equally unwilling to push this War; the *Turks*, as having been brought into it with Difficulty, and as they say, being deceiv'd by the Promises of a great Diversion of the *Swedes* from *Pomerania*, which is so far from being perform'd, that they are like not to be able to defend themselves in their Quarters; on the other

Hand, the *Qzar* not being Aggressor in this War, and having other Views, viz. Such as reducing *Sweden*, and getting himself a Footing in the Empire, had much rather adjourn the War with the *Turks* to a more convenient Opportunity, believing, as is very reasonable to believe, that he can never have a like Opportunity to Execute his other Projects, as above.

I shall Examine this part afterwards by itself.

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